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pg 18-22



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Arrest made in death of teenage girl

EDSON Edson residents can breathe a sigh of relief, because after 68 days of living on edge, Mounties have arrested a person in connection with the death of 14-year-old Emily Stauffer.



RCMP officers slapped handcuffs on an Edson man yesterday, though charges were not immediately sworn.

Once official charges are laid, the man's age and identity will be released.

The pastor's daughter was killed as she walked on a wooded path in broad daylight on Sept. 27, gripping the small community in shock and fear.

An investigative team of more than 40 officers from a number of divisions in central and northern Alberta have scoured the area since the brutal slaying.

METRO CALGARY

Style pg 28

Stay
stylish
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sleep



Celebrity Buzz pg 34



Watts
to strip
for art



An electronics store employee watches Prime Minister Stephen Harper deliver a national televised address in Calgary, last night. Harper pledged to use legal means to save his Conservative minority government.

Harper, Dion battle over small screen

PM vows to use 'every legal means' to block coalition

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, fighting to stay in power, promised in a rare televised address yesterday to use "every legal means" to block an opposition plan to replace his minority Conservative government.

Harper will visit Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean today and is expected to ask her to suspend Parliament until his newly re-elected government delivers a budget on Jan. 27.

The Liberals and New Democrats — with support of

Prime time

- Harper's address was the first nationally televised appeal by a prime minister since 2005 when Paul Martin pleaded for extra time for his minority Liberal government.

the Bloc Québécois — are vowing to defeat Harper in a confidence vote Monday and form a coalition government.

"At a time like this, a coalition with separatists cannot help Canada," a

sombre Harper said in his televised address. "Tonight, I pledge to you that Canada's government will use every legal means at our disposal to protect our democracy, to protect our economy and to protect Canada."

The opposition parties complain there was little in the recent fiscal statement to combat the economic slowdown. But what galvanized them was a government attempt — now abandoned — to cut off subsidies to political parties.

"The opposition does not

have the democratic right to impose a coalition with the separatists they promised voters would never happen," Harper said.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion, in his own televised address in response to Harper said, "If Mr. Harper wants to suspend Parliament, he must first face a vote of confidence."

REUTERS

MORE COVERAGE PGS 6, 14



VIDEO Prime Minister Stephen Harper's full televised address can be viewed at metronews.ca/canada

Calgarians on both sides take to streets

NEIL MACKINNON
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PROTESTS The lines of political discord are drawn in the sand and Calgarians are dusting off their placards in droves, preparing to hit the streets over a possible coalition government ruling the nation.

Newspaper inboxes have been crammed with reader feedback and radio talk lines have been flooded with outrage over a possible Liberal/NDP coalition, supported by the Bloc Québécois, ousting the minority Conservatives from power.

Nicholas Gafuik, Calgary's organizer of Rally for Canada, said he expects a healthy showing at city hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday to send a strong message against the coalition.

"I've never encountered so many angry people, especially in Calgary," said Gafuik. "But once we get through this, I hope they are more than angry, I hope people are taking a real interest in democracy."

Grant Neufeld, who's organizing a rally in favour of the coalition tonight from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in front of the Harry Hayes federal building at 220 4 Ave. SE, expects about 100 people to show up.

"In Calgary, if you get a dozen people out to a rally, that's pretty big," he said.

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Fifth person charged in Chinatown gang shooting

City police have charged a fifth suspect in relation to a shooting last month in Chinatown between two rival gangs. Shaun Roberts, 24, was arrested after he was released from hospital yesterday and charged with four counts of attempted murder. **METRO CALGARY**

3

Local

**'Just hear those sleigh bells jingling'**

Once Upon a Christmas at Heritage Park is taking families back in time this holiday season, with wagon rides in the snow, carol singing and other traditions. For more information, please visit www.heritagepark.ca. **METRO CALGARY**

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Slopes open at Canada Olympic Park

WHITE STUFF Snow lovers are rejoicing this week after Canada Olympic Park opened the slopes this week.

While the opening was delayed and the whole hill isn't quite open yet, COP spokesperson Tracy Cobb said skiers and snowboarders are out in full force.

"It's great. We have a lot of people out there on the hill and we're still making lots of snow," she said.

Calgarians can check out the website www.coda.ca to find out which areas are open.

The winter-season kick-off party launches on Saturday at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. **METRO CALGARY**

Beware daytime drinkers

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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While most people's reaction to daytime checkstops is "who drinks this early?", the sad reality is daytime drinking and driving is occurring, according to police.

Calgary police rolled out the enhanced holiday checkstop campaign yesterday, setting up the roadside bus at noon along westbound 16th Avenue and 68 St NE.

"Unfortunately, impaired driving is on the rise so we also want to raise awareness and let people know we're out here in the day, too," Insp. Gord Pelly of the traffic unit said.

"We know during Christmas there are some work parties and late lunches and we just want to send out the message you can't drink and drive," Pelly added.

The three-week campaign, ending on Christmas Eve, is a joint partner-

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY



The first daytime checkstop was rolled out yesterday with the desire to nab those who are drinking and driving during the day.

ship between Alberta Transportation and Alberta Sheriffs Highway Patrol, who are also lending four officers.

"We believe this will be very successful and you will start to see it more provincewide and within

the city as well," Sheriff Deputy Chief Vince Caleffi said.

As cars were backed up along the Trans-Canada highway yesterday waiting to pass the checkstop, some motorists didn't mind the delay.

"I just wonder who is drinking at two in the afternoon, but I think it's a good thing they are out here. I was just surprised; I thought there was an accident," Amanda Cronkite said of the afternoon checkstop.

Steinke jury set to begin deliberations

TRIAL Closing arguments were made yesterday in the triple-murder trial of 25-year-old Jeremy Steinke.

Steinke's defence attorney told jurors Steinke should be acquitted of first-degree murder charges in exchange for manslaughter or second-degree, while the prosecutor asserts Steinke planned to deliberately kill the family with his then-girlfriend. The jury is expected to begin deliberations today. **METRO CALGARY**

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What's online today.

Video Another day of political punchups in Ottawa at metronews.ca/canada

Video Can cellphones actually pop popcorn? Find out at metronews.ca/canada

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Do it daily.

On Friday, the University of Calgary is holding a National Day of Remembrance and Action at a violence-against-women memorial in honour of 14 women murdered in Montreal on that day in 1989. The service is from noon until 1 p.m. at the Rozsa Centre. **METRO CALGARY**

Legislature adjourns as economy falters

OIL Things began like a lamb when Alberta's government kicked off its fall session as oil hovered above \$100 a barrel, but it ended like a lion this week, thanks to a world economic meltdown that has many oil companies holding back from investing in the province.

Oil companies, such as Petro-Canada, have cancelled multibillion-dollar upgrader projects because of falling oil prices and markets dropping to new lows forcing the government to make changes to its royalty framework.

And with political turmoil in Ottawa, Premier Ed Stelmach said yesterday it would only force companies to invest elsewhere, further damaging Canada's economy.

"I can tell you this little issue in Ottawa is driving more investment out of this country than what we've seen before," said Stelmach yesterday in a session that will adjourn this week.

Alberta Liberal Leader Kevin Taft said the government was "completely unprepared in dealing with a faltering economy" during the fall session.

"The boom is over and we have very little to show for it," said Taft yesterday.

JEFF CUMMINGS/METRO CANADA

Greyhound takes security measures

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Bus transport security just got a little bit tighter.

Greyhound Canada has now begun screening passengers at major terminals with hand-held metal detectors just in time for the busy holiday season.

"We want our customers to not only feel safe, but have the safest trip possible as they travel from point A to point B," Greyhound spokesperson Eric Wesley said.

Now, travellers will be

checked at the gate with a security wand and another measure will require bags to be checked underneath the bus.

The new mandate comes

just months

after Win-

nipeg resi-

dent Tim

McLean was

brutally

killed on a

Greyhound

allegedly by

a fellow passenger, but Wesley said the measures follow

a two-year study.

"We were already review-

ing safety measures when

that event happened," he added.

Greyhound passenger Chris Allsopp was travelling to Toronto from Calgary yesterday and said he was a

bit surprised to

see the new

measures.

"I think it's

good in terms

of security to

make you feel

safer," he said.

The compa-

ny implemented the new

security measures this week

in Calgary, Edmonton and

Winnipeg and will expand

to other locations Dec. 15.

"I think it's good in terms of security to make you feel safer."

Chris Allsopp



Kelly Jodway of Securitas uses a wand on a Greyhound bus passenger as part of added security measures.

Eye on high-risk areas launched

NEIL MACKINNON
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Big smile, now

- Clearly marked yellow signs will also be put up when the cameras are in full service to warn the public of their presence.

Heather Grey isn't concerned about her privacy, and while she thinks 22 new surveillance cameras might not prevent crime, they will be a valuable tool in the fight.

"A picture paints a thousand words and the bad guys will probably stay bad guys, but at least there's a better chance they'll be caught," said Grey, who works downtown. The city's bylaw services have started the

process of installing cameras throughout the core.

Bylaw boss Bill Bruce said the cameras, part of a \$500,000 year-long pilot project, will be in full-operation by mid-January and every effort has been

made to ensure privacy.

"Even if the cameras could do it, which they can't, and an unscrupulous operator tried to look in someone's window, the computer software would blur it out," he said.

Bruce said several cameras have already been put in place, but wouldn't reveal any locations until they've all been fitted with a bulletproof casing and all wiring had been secured.

ShareYourViews

calgaryletters@metronews.ca

City a step closer to P3 approvals

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Future capital projects topping \$100 million stepped closer to private-public partnership possibilities yesterday as Calgary's finance committee approved policy guidelines surrounding the process.

While smaller projects below the \$100-million threshold may still be moved towards P3 status, the higher water-

mark was set to prevent a "very costly process" that may in turn save the city few dollars if any, said city administrator Rick Masters.

Ald. Ric McIver said there's plenty of opportunities for the city to partner with private enterprise, especially if a cautious approach, as directed by the policy, is undertaken. "But there's no knight on a white horse riding into town to solve our financial issues," he said.

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Immigration officials yesterday told Dean Walcott, former U.S. marine and Iraq war resister, that he has until Jan. 6 to leave Canada or be deported. Robin Long, a war resister deported on June 3, was court-martialled and received two felony convictions. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada



Record-setting month

Canada's two major airlines said yesterday their planes had bigger passenger loads last month, despite economic turmoil. Both Air Canada and rival WestJet Airlines Ltd. said their November load factors, a measure of space on their planes filled by paying passengers, rose to a record for the month. But the two carriers improved for different reasons, with Air Canada benefiting from cutbacks while WestJet's traffic strengthened. **REUTERS**

News in brief

AIDS The Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange launched its Get the Facts Campaign yesterday. The campaign aims to empower people living with HIV to make well-informed treatment decisions

and improve their health. At the launch celebration, CATIE presented the first three posters and postcards in what will be a series of plain-language materials that encourage discussion about

starting and adhering to HIV treatment and other topics. The posters and postcards will be available free to community organizations across Canada through the CATIE Ordering Centre at www.catie.ca.

EDMONTON Mark Twitchell, an indie-film maker accused of luring a man to a garage and murdering him, pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder yesterday morning.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Focus on economy, not partisanship, Dion tells nation

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion told Canadians that Stephen Harper has lost the confidence of the House of Commons and urged the Governor General to reject any request by the prime minister to temporarily suspend Parliament.

Responding to Harper's nationally-televised speech last night, Dion said he is asking Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean to ensure that the Conservative minority government faces a vote of confidence before any move to temporarily close down the House of Commons.

"In our Canada, the government is accountable for its decisions and actions in Parliament," Dion said.

Harper, whose minority government faces defeat on

its economic policies as early as Monday, may ask Jean today to close down Parliament until January, when the Conservatives plan to bring in a budget.

Dion devoted much of his talk to explaining the aims of the Liberal-New Democrat coalition that, with the support of the Bloc Québécois, plans to oust Harper and govern.

"Canadians don't want another election, they want Parliamentarians to work together. That's our job ... put aside partisanship and focus on the economy."

In a separate press conference, NDP Leader Jack Layton said the Liberal-NDP coalition is an answer to the government's lack of action on the economy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Stéphane Dion

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Thai tourists Home sweet home



William Thompson and his wife, Carol, are greeted at Pearson International Airport in Toronto by their grandchildren, Connor Childs, left, and brother Graham, on return from Hong Kong after protesters closed Bangkok airport.

Stimulus dollars not yet set: Coalition

ECONOMY The Liberal-NDP coalition seeking to replace the minority Tory government may deliver a fiscal stimulus package worth substantially less than \$30 billion, senior legislators said yesterday. "It will be less than \$30 billion ... it could be a lot less than that," John McCallum, a Liberal member

of Parliament and economic adviser to the party leadership, said of the coalition's proposed stimulus package.

"It would be irresponsible and fiscally imprudent for a future government to give any figure until we can see what is the state of the books," he said.

REUTERS

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RCMP shot and killed John Andrew Simon, 44, in the Wagmatcook First Nations community near Baddeck in Cape Breton, N.S., Tuesday night. RCMP were responding to a domestic complaint. **METRO CANADA**

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Documents seem to contradict Airbus testimony

OTTAWA Documents that appear to contradict sworn testimony from an aide to Brian Mulroney about the "Airbus" affair should be examined at a public inquiry into the former prime minister's dealings with Karlheinz Schreiber, members of a Commons ethics committee say.

The documents show the committee was deprived of crucial information when they were looking into circumstances surrounding the payments made to Mulroney in hotel rooms in 1993 and 1994, Liberal MP Paul Szabo said yesterday.

"They effectively subverted the opportunity the committee had to get at the truth," claimed Szabo, who chaired the committee during hearings that began a year ago and continued into this year.

Posted on Schreiber's website, the documents appear at odds with testimony from former Mulroney chief of staff Fred Doucet, who told the committee he had "no knowledge" of anything to do with Airbus.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pipeline info needed: RCMP

It is still not known if a single person or a group of people is behind three October bombings of natural-gas facilities in British Columbia, police said yesterday.

"It could be one person acting alone. It could be somebody acting within a small group," Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt.

Tim Shields said as investigators renewed their plea for the public's help.

Police have identified several "persons of interest" in the probe, but acknowledge some of them are refusing to co-operate. "They know who they are," Shields told reporters in Dawson Creek, B.C.

Police believe the sabo-

teur, or saboteurs, lives in the same area of northeastern British Columbia where the three attacks occurred, and believe the motive is a grievance against pipeline owner En-Cana Corp.

Two pipelines and a gas wellhead were damaged in the attacks in October.

REUTERS

Ottawa Illumination ceremony



University of Ottawa students Dabina Hargrove, from left, Ryan Surujballi, and Carleton University Student Brett Ruskin enjoy some hot chocolate, cookies and choral music outside Tabaret Hall last night during University of Ottawa's annual Holiday Lights Illumination Ceremony.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO CANADA



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The family of a man killed in a stampede of frenzied holiday shoppers filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Wal-Mart yesterday, seeking unspecified damages. Shoppers on New York's Long Island broke down doors and surged into the Valley Stream Wal-Mart at 5 a.m. last Friday. **REUTERS**

World



FCC looks at free Internet decision

U.S. communications regulators will consider a controversial spectrum auction plan for free Internet and new rules governing disputes between cable operators and programmers at their December meeting, the agency's chairman said yesterday. Federal Communications Commission chairman Kevin Martin is proposing that the agency auction off some airwaves, with a mandate that 25 per cent be set aside for free Internet. **REUTERS**

Pakistan urged to co-operate

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff urged Pakistan yesterday to investigate all possible links between the Mumbai attacks and Pakistani groups and to broaden its campaign against militants.

Admiral Mike Mullen flew in for talks with Pakistan's eight-month-old civilian government and military commanders, as part of U.S. diplomatic efforts to defuse tension be-

tween Pakistan and India after the Mumbai attacks.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in New Delhi to consult the Indian government.

Mullen urged Pakistani officials to "investigate aggressively any and all possible ties to groups based in Pakistan," the U.S. embassy said in a statement.

Mullen noted the recent success of Pakistani offensives against militants on

FBI gathering evidence in India

• Attorney General Michael Mukasey said yesterday FBI agents are working with Indian police to provide assistance

and gather evidence about the attacks by militants in India's financial hub of Mumbai that killed 171 people.

the Afghan border and "also encouraged Pakistani leaders to take more, and more concerted, action against militant extremists elsewhere in the country."

Rice urged Pakistan to co-operate "fully and trans-

parently" in the investigation. She is due in Islamabad today, the prime minister's office said.

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said the attacks on Mumbai that killed 171 people, includ-

ing Canadians, Americans and other foreigners, were led from inside Pakistan, and said India would act decisively to protect its territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, Pakistan killed up to 30 Islamist militants in an air strike and three soldiers and a civilian were killed in a suicide attack in the northwest near the Afghan border yesterday, officials said.

REUTERS

Marine life threatened by noise pollution

SCIENCE Man-made noise in the world's seas and oceans is becoming an increasing threat to whales, dolphins and turtles who use sound to communicate, forage for food and find mates, wildlife experts said yesterday.

Ship engines, seismic surveys by oil and gas companies, and military sonars are triggering an "acoustic fog and cacophony of sounds" underwater, scaring marine animals and affecting their behaviour.

According to "Ocean Noise: Turn It Down," a new report by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the distance over which blue whales can communicate has been cut by 90 per cent as a result of higher noise levels. **REUTERS**

Airport blockade lifted in Thailand

PROTEST Anti-government protesters lifted their crippling, eight-day blockade of Thailand's main airport yesterday, raising the hopes of 230,000 stranded tourists even though there is no end in sight to the wider political crisis.

The central bank slashed interest rates by a shock 100 basis points to 2.75 per cent, reflecting the impact of the siege on a tourism- and export-dependent economy already feeling the effects of global slowdown.

A Thai Airways domestic flight landed earlier in the morning and several international flights were scheduled to leave soon after, although it was unclear when full operations would resume.

Still cheering Tuesday's sacking of the government, thousands of yellow-shirted People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) ac-

tivists made way for an army of cleaners at the \$4 billion Suvarnabhumi terminal.

"I have strong confidence that everything will be OK and will be back to normal in two days," airport general manager Serirat Prasutanond told Reuters as PAD officials swept up debris left by their sit-in, the latest stunt in a six-month campaign.

Dissolution of the ruling People Power Party will heal none of the basic rifts between Bangkok's royalist elite and middle classes, who despise ousted and exiled leader Thaksin Shinawatra, and the urban poor and rural masses who love him and continue to vote his allies into office.

"Thailand remains locked in this structurally flawed system for the foreseeable future," said IHS Global Insight analyst Kristina Azmi. **REUTERS**

Congo European peacekeeping mission on hold



A child plays in a puddle in a camp for displaced people yesterday near the town of Mugunga, Democratic Republic of Congo. Belgium said yesterday it saw no prospect of a European peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for now.

News in brief

PIRACY Somali pirates have freed a Yemeni cargo ship they seized last week after successful talks between regional authorities, clan elders and the gunmen, a local official said

yesterday.

BAILOUT U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is weighing whether to ask Congress for the remaining \$350 billion US of the financial

bailout fund, with White House aides approaching president-elect Barack Obama's transition team about the idea, an Obama aide said yesterday.

REUTERS

90 countries sign cluster bomb treaty

PACT More than 90 nations signed a treaty yesterday to ban cluster bombs that have killed and maimed thousands of people, though powerful arms producers including the United States, Russia and China, remain outside the pact.

Eighteen of 26 NATO members, including Canada, Britain, France, Germany, signed the convention which many hailed as a humanitarian achievement. **REUTERS**

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12 world

Cancer drug may cause tumours: researchers

The most commonly used breast cancer drug may cause tumours to spread in a small number of women with low levels of a protein which makes cells stick together, British researchers said today.

The findings could lead to new tests to determine which women are not likely to benefit from tamoxifen and who should be given other drugs, said Stephen Hiscox, a cancer researcher at Cardiff University, who led the study.

"We found something that could be potentially used as a biomarker to determine which kind of drugs they should get because they have low levels of this protein," he said in a telephone interview.

REUTERS

The numbers

- The group estimates about 465,000 women died of breast cancer globally in 2007 and 1.3 million new cases were diagnosed.

Russian people turn to Putin for answers

RUSSIA Prime Minister Vladimir Putin faces a barrage of questions about rising inflation and job losses on Thursday in his first annual question-and-answer session with the Russian people since leaving the Kremlin.

With speculation continuing about his possible return to the presidency, analysts will be watching whether Putin can maintain his popularity in today's harder times with voters who had trusted him during the previous 10 years of economic boom.


REUTERS

News in brief

SURVEY Life after retirement means less sex and more housework, but most Americans who have given up working say they are happier, according to a survey released yesterday.

SCANDAL Former New York governor Eliot Spitzer, who resigned earlier this year over his involvement in a prostitution ring, will write a column for online magazine Slate.com, owned by the Washington Post, about the economy and financial regulation. The magazine said it didn't hire Spitzer because of the notoriety he gained.

REUTERS




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BEAUTY
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Comment & Views

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Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

The Conservatives built their recent re-election campaign around leadership. They put Stephen Harper front and centre in their effort to persuade Canadians that only he could lead them through the coming economic storm.

The problem for Harper was the popular distrust that has followed him around like a cranky footnote. While few doubted Harper's intelligence and discipline, they never found him very likeable.

It was famously said that Franklin D. Roosevelt had a second-class intellect and a first-class temperament. It wasn't really true — FDR was also bright — but the reverse can surely be said

of Stephen Harper. He has a first-class intellect and a second-class temperament.

Politics is all about marketing, and the selling of Stephen Harper has always been hard.

That he is cold and distant, that he is humourless and wooden, we knew. But politicians of that ilk, such as Richard Nixon, can get elected if they can persuade us of their competence.

This Harper had done in 2½ years in office.

But to win a majority, to close the deal with Canadians, he had to make them more comfortable with him — to like him.

And so the smart Tory strategists

dressed him in sweaters.

They had him play the piano and play with children — all to make this wallflower look fragrant.

It failed. Canadians denied Harper his majority, again. In Quebec, where he had hoped to find extra seats, all it took was a disparaging comment about culture and artists that was so silly he refused to repeat it in French.

The mask fell. Suddenly, there he was, his contempt laid bare.

It re-inforced a sense of meanness, and it cost him.

When Parliament reconvened, he talked conciliation.

Stephen Harper



Facing another minority, he seemed to want to make the institution work.

So what did he do?

He cancelled public financing of political parties, bankrupting his opponents.

And he suspended the right to strike of public servants.

He thought he could get away with both while the Liberals were leaderless.

He is an unreconstructed bully, and presented with a chance to land a blow upon a bruise, he can't resist.

We have never had a prime minister in memory quite like him. John Diefenbaker, Pierre Trudeau, Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien could brawl but had charm. Louis St. Laurent, Lester Pearson and Joe Clark were gentle souls.

Stephen Harper is something else. And that's why he and his government are in trouble today.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians*: Lester B. Pearson.

STEPHEN HARPER GOES INTO "CAMPAIGN MODE" TO SAVE HIS JOB:



After metro

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Men, not poverty, affect crime rate



Neil Boyd

As Canada slips and slides toward higher rates of unemployment, many are asking whether this will increase crime.

The simple answer is that unemployment and crime rates are not systematically related. It's not that poverty is unrelated to crime, but it's just not possible to find any statistical relationship between changing rates of unemployment and changing rates of crime over the past 50 years.

If, on the other hand, you start looking at our jail

populations, you begin to see familiar portraits: Most are male, working class or poorer, with little education and few social skills. Consider, for example, homicide in Canada.

For the past 50 years, British Columbia has had a rate of killing that is five times that of Newfoundland — a province that for decades languished under double-digit unemployment. What drives homicide rates (and most other crime rates) is not unemployment, or even poverty, but two more important variables: Culture and demographic shifts.

The culture of British Columbia is quite different from that of Newfoundland — the West has less community, a more tran-

Meaningful change depends on ... the communities we create.

sient population, and an established network of young men who use handguns as their tool of last resort in business transactions. Second, more than 70 per cent of all crime, in every country in the world, is committed by young men between the ages of 15 and 29. If the percentage of the male population between these ages either increases or shrinks, crime rates will rise and fall accordingly. When crime in Canada began to rise in the late 1960s, it was because of the surge of the baby

boomers.

In 1976, young men between 18 and 29 made up 10 per cent of the Canadian population; today, they represent less than five per cent. When crime rates began to fall in the early 1990s it was no surprise; the tail end of the surge of the baby boomers, those born in 1964, left their crime prone years in 1993.

In other words, tough economic times are not going to drive our crime rates down, or through the roof. Meaningful change depends on our culture and the communities we create — and, unfortunately, on the prevalence of young men in our populations.

Neil Boyd is a criminologist at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver

Letters

What's so abnormal about just wanting to date?

Re: Blame the Boomers by Denise Rudnicki, Dec. 3.

Based on a couple of examples, you conclude that young people today are not marrying simply because they are selfish, materialistic and egomaniacal. That's quite a broad brush with which you're painting.

Marriage is not necessarily a sign of maturity. Anyone can get married, but some people aren't emotionally prepared or simply inclined to make such a profound commitment. So what if people are happy "just" dating? It's attitudes like yours that makes society view unmarried people as abnormalities.

MELISSA HENRY
TORONTO, ONT

Lame duck leader does not have a mandate to lead

I am appalled that a lame duck Liberal party leader, that the country and his own party have rejected, is attempting to grab power through an unholy alliance with socialists and separatists. Canadians certainly did not vote for this coalition government.

In fact, 90 per cent of

voters did not vote for the Bloc, 82 per cent did not vote for the NDP and 74 per cent did not vote for the liberals, and yet they think that they should govern. It is outrageous and an affront to democracy. If they think that this coalition government proposal is such a great idea, I would dare them to seek a mandate on it from the voters.

KIM STEVENS
SPRUCE GROVE, AB

Politics interesting again

I am so pleased about this whole episode of coalition government and it has generated so much interest across the country.

We have never seen anything like this. We are 30 million-plus and we have 30 million-plus opinions from taxi drivers, bus drivers, bartenders, barbers and students. You name it, we have one.

We have always known that Canadian politics is boring and participation level is always low. Well done politicians, you folks finally did it. You woke us all up; it makes politics very exciting. I am pleased,

ANANT NAGPUR
OTTAWA, ONT

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Wealthy penny pinchers

The chief executive of American Express Co. said yesterday that the current financial downturn is strongly affecting the spending of people in high income levels, a departure from prior economic slowdowns. **REUTERS**

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Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Housing sales to stay stalled

First half of 2009 to be 'somewhat static': Report

Canada's real-estate market is expected to be "somewhat static" for at least the next six months as the economic downturn makes potential buyers extra cautious, while the average house price is expected to fall, according to a report released yesterday.

The Re/Max Housing Market Outlook, which tracks 22 markets across the coun-

On the rebound?

- The report said the housing market could bounce back by spring.

try, says it expects 440,000 homes to change hands in 2008, down 15 per cent from 2007. It predicted the same number of sales for next year, but the first six to

nine months of 2009 will be under pressure from volatility in financial markets and the threat of recession.

Housing markets should recover as stability returns to the financial sector, the report said, and a bounce-back could occur "as early as spring." Eleven major markets are expected to match or exceed 2008 home sales next year. **REUTERS**

TSX closes down despite rally

MARKETS The S&P/TSX composite index closed down 30.85 points, or 0.37 per cent, at 8,296.96 with six of its 10 subindexes finishing lower. The main index still managed to close more than 200 points above the session low it hit at midafternoon as some investors snapped up stocks at beaten-down prices. The benchmark index is now down 10.5 per cent on the week. **REUTERS**

RIM to push Certicom offer

TAKEOVER BlackBerry maker Research In Motion said yesterday it plans to make a direct takeover offer to Certicom Corp shareholders of \$1.50 a share in cash because it has been unable to advance talks with the encryption software firm's management.

The offer, which comes after RIM cut its third-quarter profit and revenue out-

look, represents a 76.5 per cent premium over the closing price of Certicom stock on Dec. 2, RIM said.

The bid, which values Certicom at about \$66 million, is not subject to financing conditions and will be funded by cash on hand, RIM said. It expects to formally commence the offer by Dec. 12 after receiving a shareholder list. **REUTERS**

Paris Business leaders meet



Thomas J. Donohue, from left, of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and France's MEDEF head Laurence Parisot listen to Fujio Mitarai of the Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren) as they attend a news conference during the G8 Business leaders meeting in Paris yesterday.

Business in brief

ECONOMY Record declines in the U.S. and European service sectors and grim U.S. employment news yesterday sparked fear of an economic "free fall," setting up more aggressive interest rate cuts. **REUTERS**

APPOINTMENT Heavy equipment dealer Finning International Inc. has appointed former Canadian government minister David Emerson to its board of directors, the company said yesterday. **REUTERS**



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The NFL will broadcast tonight's Raiders/Chargers game in 3-D to three theatres in New York, Boston and Los Angeles. Eight 3-D camera crews will film the action for the test broadcast, which will have its own commentators. 3-D viewers must don polarized lenses to see the action. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Avery faces the music today

The Stars' Sean Avery will meet with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman today in New York to explain himself in the wake of controversial comments made Tuesday that resulted in his indefinite suspension. Avery's comments regarding actress Elisha Cuthbert ignited a storm of criticism from both teammates and opponents. Avery apologized for his remarks yesterday, saying, "It was a bad attempt to build excitement for the game."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Flames look for redemption

After loss to Stars, Calgary aims to get back in win column vs. Blues

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Calgary

Judging by their recent success against the St. Louis Blues, the Calgary Flames have a great opportunity to get back on the winning track tomorrow night.

The Flames have won nine of their previous 10 games against the Blues, including four of their past five contests at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis.

"I always enjoy going back to St. Louis," said Flames forward Craig Conroy, who played five seasons with the Blues before being acquired by the Flames in exchange for Cory Stillman in 2001. "They gave me my shot in the NHL. It's a fun building. I've still got lots of friends there, so I'm always excited to get in there and get a win."

After reeling off three straight wins, including both ends of a home-and-home series against the



Calgary Flames Craig Conroy is looking forward to playing in St. Louis tomorrow night. Conroy played five seasons with the Blues before heading to Calgary in a trade in 2001.

Vancouver Canucks, the Flames dropped a 3-1 decision to the Dallas Stars at home on Tuesday night.

"It was a tough loss for us, but we've got to regroup and get ready for the next one," said Conroy,

who has played well recently on a line with wingers Curtis Glencross and Rene Bourque.

"That's the one fun thing about pro sports, you can redeem yourself pretty quickly and that's what we feel like we've got to go out and do."

Although they held the majority of the play against the Stars, the Flames had problems getting the puck past veteran netminder Marty Turco, who earned first-star accolades after his 36-save performance.

"We had a lot of chances I felt, but Turco played great and you run into hot goalies every now again," said Conroy, who returned to play for the Flames midway through the 2006-07 season after a 1½ year stint with the L.A. Kings.

"We've got to bounce back against St. Louis and just do the same thing. I thought we worked hard and we killed penalties well. The power play was great, but we didn't get to draw very many penalties. We've got to work a little bit harder to draw some more penalties."

Mitchell out, Triano in for Raptors

NBA The Toronto Raptors fired head coach Sam Mitchell yesterday, a day after the team suffered the fifth-worst defeat in franchise history.

Canadian assistant Jay



Triano, formerly in charge of Canada's national team, was appointed interim coach

Mitchell and, according to Raptors president Bryan Colangelo, is expected to remain in the role through the end of the season. "It's safe to say after the debacle we all witnessed last night, (a 39-point loss to Denver), not to mention several other instances ... you come to a point where you realize some of the things you want to see out there aren't taking place," Colangelo told reporters.

In four-plus seasons in Toronto, Mitchell posted a record of 156-189, earning NBA coach of the year honours in 2006-07 after guiding the Raptors to the Atlantic Division title and back into the playoffs for the first time in five years.

REUTERS

Youth will lead the way for Canadian junior team

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The boys in the red and white may be a little green at this year's world junior championship in Ottawa.

Hockey Canada announced yesterday its 38-player selection camp roster for the world junior championship, a group that will gather for four days in Ottawa starting Dec. 11.

Eighteen players coming to camp are 18 or younger, while there are only four returnees from the group that won Canada's fourth straight gold medal last year.

"It could be a bunch of 18-year-olds that make it," head coach Pat Quinn said. "It will be about maturity. Let's face it, some 18-year-olds are more mature than

some at 19 or 25 for that matter. If we're young, that's what we are."

The roster features four goalies, 14 defencemen and 20 forwards. Forwards John Tavares and Zach Boychuk and blue-liners Thomas Hickey and P.K. Subban are the returnees.

Much-talked-about Montreal Junior forward Angelo Esposito will get a fourth crack at making the roster.

Some of the bigger names among the newcomers are Taylor Hall, an early favourite to go No. 1 in the 2010 NHL draft; Vancouver Canucks first-rounder Cody Hodgson; and St. Louis Blues fourth overall pick Alex Pietrangelo.

One-dimensional players were not welcome.

"The guys coming to camp are real good players that do something elite but



Zach Boychuk, left, and P.K. Subban are two of the returning Canadian junior team attendees.

they have a well-rounded game," said the team's head scout, Al Murray.

If Canada can win a fifth straight medal, it would match its own record of five straight titles from

1992 to 1997.

"At the end of the day on Dec. 15, we're hoping we can pick 22 men who will come together as a team," Quinn said.

"It's not skill that wins in

any game of hockey. It's how those skills blend to come together stronger as a unit."

The tournament opens Boxing Day at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa.

Hurricanes fire Laviolette

NHL The Carolina Hurricanes have made a coaching change, replacing Peter Laviolette with his predecessor, Paul Maurice.

Maurice will return to the job he held for seven full seasons and parts of two others before Laviolette took over 30 games into the 2003-04 campaign. In addition, Ron Francis has been named an associate coach.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

BASEBALL According to the New York Daily News, the Atlanta Braves are preparing a five-year offer to free agent pitcher A.J. Burnett. Atlanta also reached a tentative deal Tuesday to acquire pitcher Javier Vazquez from the White Sox.

NHL The Flyers' Daniel Briere will miss the next 4 to 5 weeks with a groin strain.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sakic out for at least six weeks

Colorado Avalanche centre Joe Sakic will miss at least the next six weeks while receiving treatment for a herniated disc in his back. Sakic sustained the injury on his first shift of the November 28 game at Phoenix and did not return. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Can't keep Kipper down

Struggling Flames goalie likely to rebound in second half of season

The **Hockey** News

Brian Costello



thehockeynews.com

Two of the league's worst goaltenders faced one another Tuesday at the Saddledome. Statistically speaking,

Dallas' **Marty Turco**, he of the 42nd (and worst) save percentage in the NHL, outplayed Calgary's **Miikka Kiprusoff**, he of the 33rd best save percentage, by a 3-1 score.

Is it too harsh to refer to Turco and Kiprusoff as among the worst goalies in the league?

Of course it is. Factor in all they've accomplished the past six or seven years and the two certainly rank among the top half-dozen goalies.

Keep in mind the Stars have been without two-way stars **Sergei Zubov**, **Jere Lehtinen** and **Brenden Morrow** for a large chunk of the season and it makes Turco's .874 save percentage more understandable. Not acceptable, he'd tell you, but understandable.

As for Kiprusoff, his save percentage has been falling — and his goals-

The Flames have had a few hot streaks and Kipper has been a star along the way. But the odd softie here and there has been the difference in a few games as well.

against average rising — each of the past four seasons since arriving in Calgary in 2003.

He's not the same Miikka Kiprusoff who led the Flames to within a phantom goal of the Stanley Cup in 2004 or won a Vezina Trophy in 2006.

I've heard the Flames apologists defend Kiprusoff all season long. I've heard them say he's a big reason for Calgary's run up the standings. I've heard

the reports that he has played well in games where he gave up five or six goals. I've heard he's not getting help from his defensemen in clearing rebounds.

And I don't disagree with the apologists, for the most part. The Flames have had a few hot streaks and Kipper has been a star along the way. But the odd softie here and there has been the difference in a few games as well.

Pedroia inks six-year deal with Red Sox

MLB The Boston Red Sox have agreed to terms with AL MVP Dustin Pedroia on a six-year contract with a club option for 2015.

Financial terms were not disclosed, but numerous media outlets in Boston say the deal is worth \$40.5 million US. The new pact covers Pedroia's remaining arbitration years and buys out two years of free agency — three if the option is exercised.

The gritty second baseman, who also won a Gold Glove this past season, batted .326 with 17 home runs, 83 RBI and 118 runs scored. He also ranked first in the AL in doubles with 54, fourth in total bases with 322.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Against the Stars, Kiprusoff gave up a couple of fat rebounds that led to the opening and winning goals. Once a craftsman in controlling or re-directing rebounds, Kiprusoff is struggling in that department this season.

Flames fans shouldn't be too worried though. Kipper won't be 33rd in save percentage much longer. He traditionally is stronger in the second half.

I'd be surprised if he wasn't in the top 10 by March. And if that really happens, the Flames are in for a bull market.

The Hockey News
thn.com

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Edmonton 5 Dallas 2
Ottawa 5 Atlanta 1
Chicago 4 Anaheim 2
N.Y. Rangers 3 Pittsburgh 2 (SO)
Minnesota 4 St. Louis 0

TONIGHT'S GAMES

N.Y. Rangers at Montreal
New Jersey at Philadelphia
N.Y. Islanders at Washington
Pittsburgh at Carolina
Boston at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at Florida
Vancouver at Detroit
Colorado at Nashville
Toronto at Phoenix
Columbus at San Jose

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 105 Memphis 95
Boston 114 Indiana 96
Charlotte 103 Oklahoma City 97
Cleveland 118 New York 82
L.A. Lakers 114 Philadelphia 102
Orlando 100 Minnesota 89
Portland 98 Washington 92
Chicago at Milwaukee
Phoenix at New Orleans
L.A. Clippers at Houston
Miami at Utah

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Phoenix at Dallas
San Antonio at Denver

NFL

TONIGHT'S GAME

Oakland at San Diego

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Minnesota at Detroit
Cleveland at Tennessee
Houston at Green Bay
Atlanta at New Orleans
Jacksonville at Chicago
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
Cincinnati at Indianapolis
New England at Seattle
N.Y. Jets at San Francisco
Kansas City at Denver
Dallas at Pittsburgh
St. Louis at Arizona
Washington at Baltimore
Miami vs. Buffalo (at Toronto)

NHL Senators thrash Atlanta



Ottawa's Jason Spezza reacts after scoring on the Thrashers' Ondrej Pavelec last night. The Senators won the game 5-1, taking their third straight win on home ice.

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Holiday Shopping Guide III

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

All she wants...



#1



#2



#3



#5



#6



#4

#1

Sweet vintage

Visit: homesense.ca
This vintage-inspired children's pedal car (\$169.99) is available at HomeSense.

#2

Fuzzy Thomas Bear

Visit: starlightcanada.org
Proceeds from this \$20 bear go to the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation.

#3

Tamagotchi returns

At Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, Zellers
Tamagotchi Connection V5
Celebrity Familitchi, \$15.99.
Colours/patterns vary.

#4

Eco-chic bedding

Visit: GrassrootsStore.com
Organic cotton kids
bedding, \$60-\$240. Made
in North America.

#5

Bratz Familiez

Visit: bratz.com
Bratz World Familiez
Cloe and Her Sister
dolls, \$19.99.

#6

Plush Fifi doll

Visit: www.toysrus.ca
This Fifi and the
Flowertots Lullaby Plush
(\$24.99) is at Toys R Us.

Cool toys for boys



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

#1

BEN 10 Alien Force

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(\$9.99), left, and Swampfire
(\$5.99).

#2

For the Batman fan

Visit: toyexpress.ca
Dark Knight Stealth
Launch Batmobile with
missiles, \$49.99.

#3

Thomas train set

Visit: chapters.indigo.ca
Thomas the Tank Engine
Lift & Load Set, \$299
(online exclusive price).

#4

Durable DVD player

Visit: toyexpress.ca
Kid-Tough Portable DVD
Player, \$170. Can survive
drop after drop after drop!

#5

Wooden wheels

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#6

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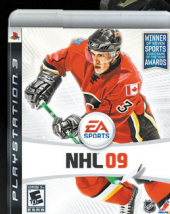
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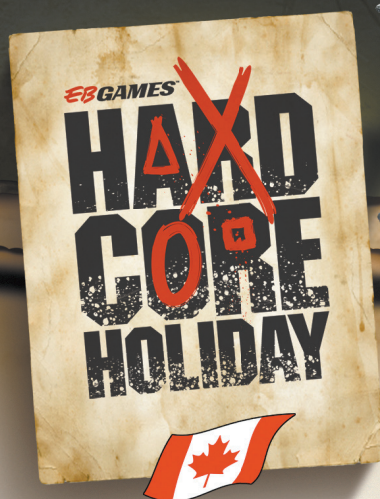
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Holiday Shopping Guide III

Gamers' delight

KAREN FALCON
for Metro Canada

GOT A GAMER on your list? This roundup of recent releases (all under \$70) covers the best across the three major consoles and includes something for every age. Throw in extra batteries for controllers and you'll be a gift-giving mastermind.

Call of Duty: World at War

Platform: PS2, PS3, Nintendo DS, Wii, Xbox 360
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+

What better gift is there than a flamethrower? None. And you can give the gift of flamethrower by giving COD: World at War.

Powered by the same technology that made the rock-solid COD4 a superstar, this instalment of the franchise focuses on the climactic Eu-



Next week's lineup

GIFT GUIDES For a roundup of beauty products, tech gifts and much more, pick up Metro's next Holiday Shopping Guide on Dec. 11.

21 shopping days remain before Christmas.

ropean and Pacific battles of WWII. I can't lie: It's the best-looking WWII game to date. Add the one-to-four player co-op mode and the replay value just keeps going up. Online multi-player doesn't disappoint.

de Blob

Platform: Wii, iPhone
Genre: Puzzle
Rated: E: Everyone

It's a colour revolution! OK: You're a ball. A jiggly, wriggly, gummy little ball that rolls around and restores colour to a monochromatic world, one bounce and splat at a time. You see, the evil INKT Corporation has taken over and outlawed all colour from daily life. Your mission is to investigate and re-animate 10 massive worlds. You'll be thumb-stickin', arm wavin', zap-pin' and making other assorted silly and dramatic yet satisfying gestures to control "de Blob." The more colour you restore, the more stuff you unlock and more colours become available. Watching all this happen while you sit there smearing paint over buildings and landmarks while waving your arms around like a lunatic is oddly entertaining and wickedly gratifying.



Fallout 3

Platform: PS3, Xbox 360
Genre: Action RPG
Rated: M: 17+

Two hundred years after a nuclear war ravages the Earth, in the year 2277, your character escapes out into the world in search of his missing father. This is a vast, open-ended game with a flexible character-leveling system in which what you choose to do makes a difference. On your journey you'll meet other survivors, complete quests, specialize your character, and battle the countless enemies inhabiting the wasteland. This instalment of the Fallout series feels good, looks good, plays incredibly well, is awesomely interactive, and begs to be played pretty much until you go blind.



Left 4 Dead

Platform: Xbox 3
Genre: Horror, shooter
Rated: M: 17+

Mmmm ... zombies. Not just zombies, but zombies versus up to four co-op human players.

Slick and stylish with undead that move faster than you'd think the un-



You can be Batman or Robin in LEGO Batman: The Videogame.

dead would, Left 4 Dead really brings it. It's fun, it's creepy, and, thanks to brilliant A.I. technology, it's different every single time you play. The game tailors itself to the player's abilities. How cool is that? Seriously, is there anything in gaming better than the human struggle against hordes of swarming zombies? Yep, there IS one thing better: The Left 4 Dead co-op human struggle against hordes of swarming zombies. This is the future of co-op.

LEGO Batman: The Videogame

Platform: PS2, PS3, PSP, Nintendo DS, Wii, Xbox 360
Genre: Action adventure
Rated: E: 10+

It's a game you can play with your kids. Or let them play with each other. Or forget the kids and play it yourself — it's Batman and it's LEGO. Play as Batman and play as Robin. Build stuff, drive a LEGO Batmobile, swing on



bat cables, and capture escaped villains like The Joker and The Penguin. Or play as the evil dudes and wage war on the good guys. Whatever your age, LEGO is cool.

Little Big Planet

Platform: PS3
Genre: Puzzle platformer
Rated: T: Teen

The most highly anticipated game for the PS3 in 2008 is here. There's never been a game quite like this before. In LBP, players control little yarn characters, "sackboys," who wander all over the globe. Each cute, customizable character can manipulate and interact with all the objects and environments in the game. Ambitious players can use the stunning level-creator tools to develop their own game environments and share them online. If you don't have a PS3er on your list, then you need to get one just so you can buy them LBP and go over and play it. Yep, it's THAT good.



Gears of War 2

Platform: Xbox 3
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+

Gears of War 2 is good. It's really good. Story goes that you and your squad have to save the world — again — but don't worry, the story isn't really where it's at. The upgraded online multi-player is awesome. Did I mention the graphics are crispy-crunchy good, which makes toasting enemies look extra hot?



Resistance 2

Platform: PS3
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+

Exclusive to the PS3, Resistance 2 launches with the biggest monsters ever, wicked-awesome graphics, remote-detonating Magnum ammo, eight-player dynamic campaign co-op, and one-to-60 multi-player on massive maps. If that isn't enough, it's just plain adrenaline-pumping fun. You'll serve as a bullet-magnet for waves of aggressive and accurate enemies, but you've also got what's easily one of the coolest arsenals in the history of gaming. It's a complete, hugely entertaining package for Resistance fans and newcomers alike.



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BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

THE HITS — and misses — just keep on coming. Last week, Metro reviewed some of the best, and worst, Christmas CDs of the season. But based on the sheer volume of seasonal music flooding the office, Metro's Holiday Gift Guide would be remiss in passing up this opportunity. With that said, here's a double helping of Christmas cheer. Enjoy!

Tony Bennett feat. The Count Basie Band

Album: A Swingin' Christmas
Label: Sony/BMG
Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

His voice reveals a man in his golden years, but Tony Bennett's natural talent for evoking fun



and capturing drama in every track he sets his hand to remains evergreen. Jovial big-band arrangements back up Bennett's grandfatherly warmth here, especially on Christmas Time Is Here and My Favorite Things — where the band moves into a brass-blazing, piano-led segue of classic swinging grooves. Superb stuff.

Aretha Franklin

Album: This Christmas
Label: DMI Records
Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

The greatest singer of all time, according to Rolling Stone magazine, puts the spirit back into the season on her first ever Christmas disc with strong ensembles, an 11-piece choir and a duet with her son.



The 66-year-old Queen of Soul shines on gospel adaptations such as The Lord Will Make A Way, Angels We Have Heard On High and Silent Night — as you might expect from a preacher's daughter.

Sarah Brightman

Album: A Winter Symphony
Label: EMI Music
Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

Brightman puts in a good mix of old and new in this eagerly anticipated followup to her Symphony album. Orchestral backup enhances Brightman's theatrical style on hymns such as Silent Night and Amazing Grace along with modern winter-themed ditties — among them Vince Gill's Colder Than Winter and Neil Diamond's I've Been This Way Before. But



Brightman can often flirt with overkill as a result; does an album really need two versions of Ave Maria?

Beverly Mahood

Album: This Christmas Celebrate Me Home
Label: BPM Entertainment
Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

It has been said many times, many ways, and Mahood's Christmas effort ensures it will be again. The ex-member of David Foster-produced country trio Lace brings light licks and a saccharine voice to the standards. Mahood doesn't try anything risky or dynamic enough to make this work memorable — which will more than likely end up as part of an inoffensive background soundtrack as the turkey roasts. Meh.



Lip locked

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Holiday Shopping Guide III

Screen gems for the holidays

RICK MCGINNIS

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

The big enchiladas

The capo di tutti capi of DVD gift sets this holiday season is undeniably **HBO's Complete Sopranos box** — a bricklike reliquary in funereal black on black, with the discs housed in a hardcover book tightly shrouded in a black felt bag. The whole package is a cross between the archival and the morbid, and the prime special features are spread over two new bonus discs that include dinner chats with creator David Chase and key members of the cast and crew, as well as two fawning interviews with Chase by actor Alec Baldwin, who was never able to fulfill his dream of a role on the show.

The other big box this season is **MGM/Fox's Hollywood Musicals set**, a gaudy marquee-themed

package that features 50 musicals from the 30s to the present day. The byzantine world of rights ownership means that most of MGM's signature pre-1952 musicals are missing, so Fox dominates the first of four sections of the box, which includes films like **Babes In Toyland**, **State Fair** and **Moon Over Miami**. The '50s are dominated by Rogers and Hammerstein classics like **Oklahoma** and **The King And I**, and the '60s set features a lot of Elvis movies. The final set, covering the '70s to the present, is a truly mixed bag, though a set with titles like **All That Jazz**, **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** and **Moulin**



Rouge can claim to be fairly representative of the era.

Finally, Fox's successor to its landmark Ford At Fox set from last year arrives in the form of **Murnau, Borzage & Fox**, another deluxe box profiling the careers of two directors — F.W. Murnau and Frank Borzage — and studio head William Fox during

the transition from silent movies to talkies. Includes the classic Murnau film **Sunrise**, as well as several other rarely seen but brilliant films from an era unjustly overlooked.

The whole thing

HBO has a few big complete season collections this year, including sets for **The Wire** and **Deadwood**. There's not a lot new in The Wire set except for some prequel shorts, but the new box does slim down the show's shelf real

estate. The **Deadwood** collection does the same, but throws in a few new bonus features, including a wander down the streets of the show's main set with creator David Milch, who is clearly unhappy with his show's end.

HBO also has a complete **Get Smart** collection with a simple but clever package that requires you to open a set of doors echoing the show's famous title sequence to get to the discs, which are loaded with bonus features. Finally, HBO has released a slim collection of **Generation Kill**, the Iraq War miniseries from The Wire creator David Simon, probably the most successful portrait of the conflict made so far.

Looking to dominate the TV box set market, HBO has also released the World War II miniseries **Band Of Brothers** on Blu-

ray, which virtually duplicates the earlier DVD offering but integrates several of the special features more seamlessly.

Not new but improved

The **Planet Of The Apes** films have also been given a Blu-ray upgrade in a slip-cased set from Fox, which excludes the TV and animated iterations of the franchise contained in the earlier "monkey head" gift set in favour of a reverent look at the 5 Apes films as cultural artifacts of the late '60s and early '70.

The Best Picture Collection from Sony is a grab bag of Oscar-winning titles, from Frank Capra chestnuts like **It Happened One Night** and **You Can't Take It With You** through David Lean's **Lawrence Of Arabia** and **Bridge On The River Kwai** to **Kramer Vs. Kramer** and **Gandhi**. If anything, it proves how much less fun Oscar films have become over the years.

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Holiday Shopping Guide III

Dreaming of a Blu-ray Christmas

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

Toshiba XD-E300 upconverting DVD player (\$129.99)

Toshiba was the loser in the high-def disc wars last year, supporting the (to my eyes, superior) HD-DVD format. They're not willing to run up the white flag and surrender yet, which brings us to the XD-E500, their latest generation of upconverting DVD players, introduced to the market with the assumption that there are enough consumers with DVD libraries out there unwilling to swap them for Blu-ray at notable cost.

The XD-E500 is essentially an upconverting player that allows the viewer control over aspects of image control to give the impression of a sharper, more vivid DVD picture on high-

def screens. If you're at all familiar with image editing programs like Photoshop, you'll have no problem understanding how the XD-E500 tweaks sharpness, contrast and saturation to squeeze every bit of juice out of a 480i image upconverted to 1080p. The one major improvement I noticed was the ability of the player to tightly render patterns that would have been jangled, moiré-pattern messes on regular DVD. Be warned — the XD-E500 doesn't put out true HD, but it comes as close as DVD will go, at a very reasonable price.

Panasonic DMP-BD35 (\$349.99)

Samsung BD-P1500 Blu-ray player (\$299.99)

Sony BDP S350 (\$299.99)

As Blu-ray players start bearing down on the magic \$200 price point (keep your eyes peeled during Boxing Week), these three



machines will probably end up on somebody's wish list. Since winning the format war, there hasn't been a lot of movement in the basic specs of Blu-ray players, but one major improvement is load time — all three players tested here improved the load time on previous generations of machines, the clear winner being the Sony machine.

Sony was the most improved of all the players — previous Sony machines I've tested have been sluggish, and rejected discs with alacrity, but the BDP S350 was the best performer of the bunch, with the nicest interface and performance.

All three machines feature Ethernet jacks for online firmware updates and possible BD-Live interactivity, which is good to see, since this was often missing on Blu-ray players during the format war.

The Panasonic's main flaw is the load time — the slowest of the three — and the price, which needs to be more competitive. The Samsung is a fine machine, but the review unit I had went through a frustrating series of malfunctions, not recognizing commands from either the remote or the buttons on the unit itself, or throwing up the "Bonus View" icon onscreen with no option to shut it off.



LG Scarlet 42LG60 LCD TV (\$1,999.99)

The flat panel TV market has reached a sort of plateau of quality, at least when you're shopping for brand name sets — picture quality is uniformly good, even excellent, now that full 1080p is pretty much standard above a certain screen size, and as a result you're likely to be picking a unit based on criterion like features and aesthetics.

In terms of aesthetics,

Blu-ray players, from middle top down: Sony BDP S350, Samsung BD-P1500, and Panasonic DMP-BD35.

it's hard to beat the LG Scarlet line, and especially the very sculptural 42LG60 unit, with its black lacquer with red accents and the big, backlit circular hole that functions as power button and status indicator. It's not the sort of machine that you'll hide in some home entertainment cupboard — it practically begs to be wall-mounted, especially since the wide lower "chin" adds so much height to its profile.

The picture quality is superb, with a room light sensor that adjusts for ambience, and four HDMI units for gamers.

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EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Sweet dreams and pillow talk

Anyone who's ever toured a show home or booked themselves into a five-star hotel knows bedroom designers are serious about how a pillow looks on a bed. Flip the number one pillow consideration from form to function, however, and everyone who's slept with the wrong pillow also knows that even the best

looking pillow has got to be more than a place to rest a weary head.

Functional talk about what a pillow is supposed to do is the name of the game at Cushy Life, a bedding boutique located in the heart of the Kensington shopping district. The store sells all of the soft furnishings you need to outfit a

bedroom; from bedding to decorative cushions, shams, bed skirts and draperies. But when the talk turns to pillows, Cushy Life proprietors Michelle and Jonathan Edwards get personal, fast.

"If they're buying pillows, we ask a lot of direct questions about their sleeping habits. We ask about their sleeping position, whether they wear pajamas and whether they wake up in the same position in which they fell asleep, or if they're someone who tosses and turns," says Michelle.

The answers matter because they impact everything from pillow firmness to the size of pillow you should buy.

Pillow firmness matters because it can have a direct impact on how well you sleep and whether you wake with pain in your



A pillow with enough height to support the natural curve of the neck is essential for a good sleep.

neck or back, says Dr. Gena Boris, a chiropractor with a clinic in southwest Calgary.

Even if the pain can be linked to other health issues such as arthritis, the wrong pillow can contribute to a poor sleeping

posture.

"Typically, stomach sleeping is the worst posture you could go with at night and it wouldn't really matter which type of pillow you're using if that's your sleeping posture," notes Boris.

Sleep on it

- To minimize stress on your back while sleeping, The Canadian Chiropractic Association recommends you: sleep on your side or back, not your stomach and sleep on a firm mattress with a supportive pillow.

For back and side sleepers, however, a pillow without enough height to support the natural curve of the neck might lead to pinching and joint problems. On the other hand, "a pillow that is too high will cause the muscles on the same side of the pillow to be over-stretched," says Boris. While it's tough to generalize about what makes a good pillow, support is critical.

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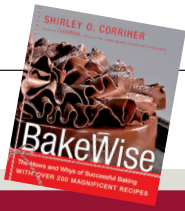
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Highly anticipated
BakeWise: The Hows and Whys of Successful Baking by Shirley O. Corriher (Simon & Schuster Publishing, \$47) is the only non-Canadian cookbook on this page. Written by the author of CookWise, this followup book has been very much anticipated by foodies everywhere. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food

“Who doesn’t like a rich chocolate brownie every now and then?”

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada



A bible

The Brownie Lover's Bible by Lisa Slater (Whitecap Books, \$25) features over 100 modern and classic brownie-inspired recipes, taking the brownie to a whole new level.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONews.CA

Welcome to the book buffet

À la carte

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer



Each fall a fresh crop of Canadian cookbooks are produced in time for the big gift-giving season. Despite the economic gloom, there is much to appreciate in our vast country and it has been a productive and bountiful year for cookbook authors. All but one of the books on this and the next page feature homegrown talent.

1 A Taste of Canada: A Culinary Journey

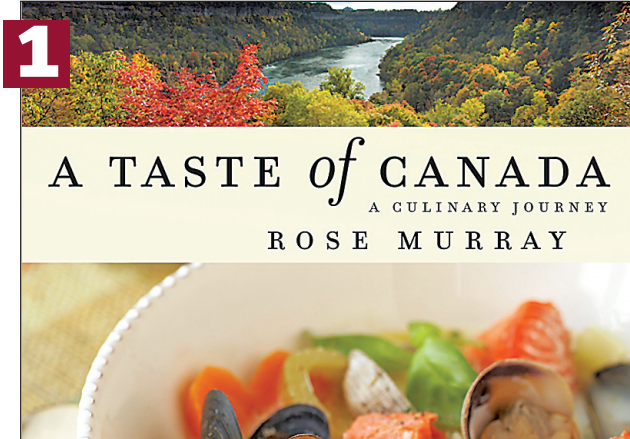
by Rose Murray (Whitecap Books \$35):

This volume shows us just how distinctive Canada cuisine really is and how our land, climate and people shape it.

With beautiful food and landscape photography, it is much more than a cookbook. It is historical, anecdotal, a travelogue and a wonderful read. Here is a lovely coffee table book that will also make it to the kitchen — often.

2 Crème Brûlée: More Than 50 Decadent Recipes by Dominique and Cindy Duby (Whitecap Books \$20):

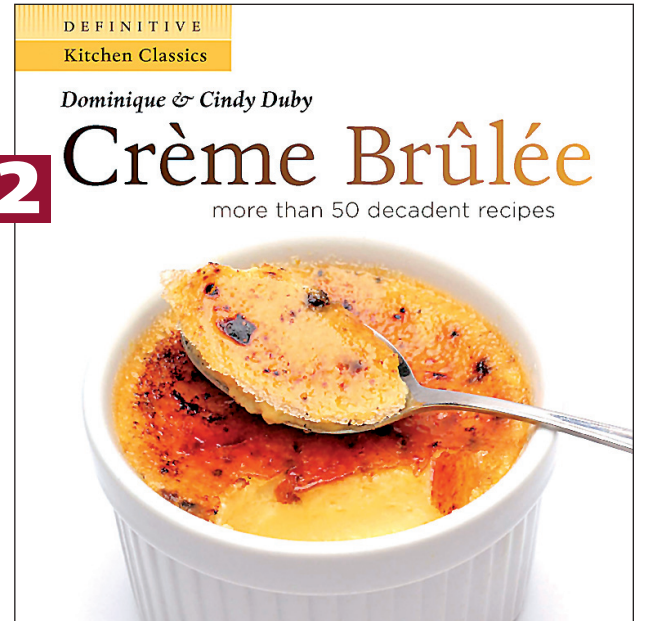
This is an extensive single subject book as it explores the history of crème



brûlée; the science of making crème brûlée; basic ingredients and equipment requirements; the cooking process; sweet and savoury alternatives; and wine pairings. The Dubys are chocolatiers, chefs, and founders and owners of

the acclaimed chocolate atelier and virtual boutique Wild Sweets. If your recipient has a sense of adventure (and humour), give this with a bag of sugar and a mini blowtorch.

continued >>



Cookbooks fall from the sky during autumn — just in time for the gift-giving season. Check out this fresh talent on two pages.



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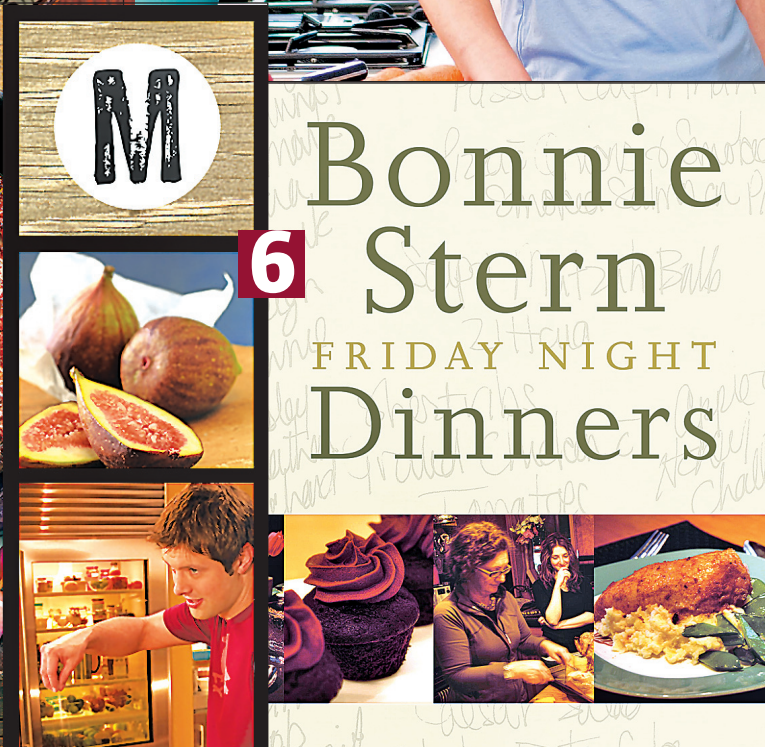
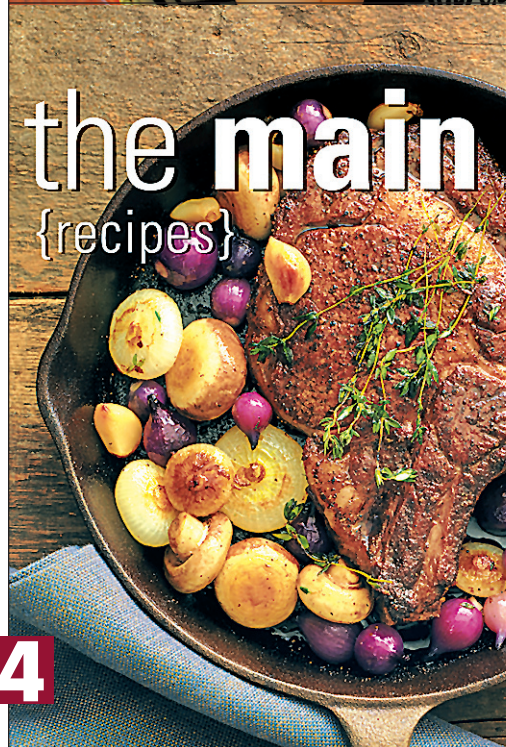
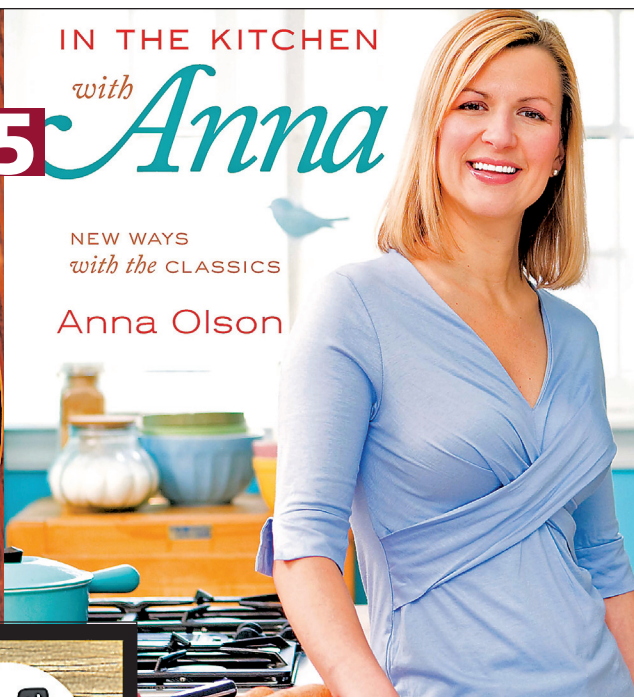
MENUS *from an* **ORCHARD TABLE**

IN THE KITCHEN

with **Anna**

NEW WAYS
with the CLASSICS

Anna Olson



<< ...continued

3 **Menus from an Orchard Table: Celebrating the Food & Wine of the Okanagan by Heidi Noble (Whitecap Books, \$35):**

This book is a collection of seasonal recipes from Joie Wines and Farm Cooking School's renowned outdoor orchard dinners. The recipes are divided into the courses and matched with regional wines.

4 **The Main: Recipes by Anthony Sedlak (Whitecap Books, \$30):**

This release is the accompanying book to the same named show on the

Food Network. Sedlak chooses one ingredient as the focus for a variety of dishes and creates dinner menus around it. Timing is everything when planning and executing a dinner, so the timing tips for the 45 menus is helpful.

5 **In the Kitchen with Anna: New Ways with the Classics, by Anna Olson (Whitecap Books, \$30):**

Like the one before, this book also accompanies Olson's latest Food Network series, providing refreshing takes on dishes that have stood the test of time. Whether improving the nutritional value of a dish or finding faster ways to

create the same flavours, the classics are reinvented with home kitchens in mind.

6 **Friday Night Dinners by Bonnie Stern (Random House Canada, \$50):**

This is the latest cookbook by this well-known Canadian cooking teacher and author. Bonnie celebrates Friday night dinner as the way to start the weekend with menus for every season and occasion, holidays, barbecues, fast suppers and feasts. Bonnie's son Mark took the photographs, providing a very rustic, homey feel, just right for dinners for family and friends.

On the web

Try before you buy?

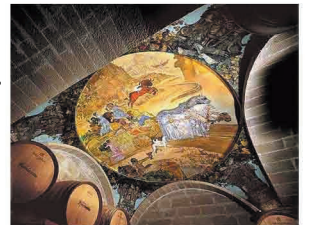
- For a recipe of Braised Beef with Caramelized Root Vegetables, an excerpt from A Taste of Canada: A Culinary Journey by Rose Murray, visit metronews.ca.



Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Discover the Wines of Mastroberardino!

High in the mountainous Irpinia region of Italy, nestled amidst an intricate network of valleys, lies the home of the Mastroberardino family. Local legend tells that they were once simply the Berardino family, until the 18th century when one talented Berardino took the professional title Mastro - *master craftsman*. His craft was wine-making, and 300 years later his family still tends the volcanic soils of his land and still age their wines in his historic, frescoed cellars. The centuries have brought only refinement to the original Mastro's techniques, as the secrets of the land and its grapes have been passed from each generation to the next.



Painted ceilings at the Mastroberardino cellars

The Wine Shop has been serving Calgary since 1985 and our 17th Ave SW shop is a treasure trove of unique and exclusive wines, specially selected by a staff of passionate experts for quality and value. The wines of Mastroberardino are available exclusively on our shelves in Calgary, and we are thrilled to offer such tremendous examples of tradition and artistry in winemaking. Among the vintages in our selection are the **Lacrimarosa** (\$22.99), a balanced, dry rosé that's delightful with pasta or white meats; the **Greco di Tufo** (\$26.99), a smooth and elegant wine with good acidity, perfectly paired with seafood; and the **Radici Taurasi Riserva** (69.99), an intense ruby-coloured red with cherry, violet and berries on the nose and an enveloping, elegant, and persistent palate with notes of plum, bitter cherry, strawberry jam & black pepper.

On Monday, January 19th, The Wine Shop and Sugo Caffe Italia are hosting a unique dinner & music event in celebration of these amazing wines. In the intimate, comfortable ambiance of Inglewood's Sugo, enjoy a reception and dinner including Hors D'oeuvres and four sumptuous courses designed by chef Angelo Contrada to pair perfectly with five of Mastroberardino's most exquisite offerings. To really set your senses soaring, acclaimed mezzo soprano Barbara King will perform throughout the evening, fresh from the 2008 Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy.

The Reception, including Barbara's first performance, will begin at 6:00, with dinner served at 6:30. Tickets are available this week at Sugo for only \$100 per guest, including tax and gratuity. Call 403-263-1115 to book.

In the meantime, don't wait to discover the wines of Mastroberardino! The Wine Shop is located on 17th Ave. and 5th St. SW, where our staff of experts are always prepared to find the perfect bottle for you. Please inquire anytime at 403-229-WINE or info@thewineshop.ca.



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U.S. retailers hope to put shoppers in a merry enough mood to shop amid economic tough times, by decking the halls, stocking up with brightly coloured merchandise, even lining up employees at the door to applaud customers as they enter the store. **REUTERS**

Style



Hutton's hot comeback

At 64, Lauren Hutton is giving the young crop of It models competition in the ad campaign area. In addition to starring in the autumn/winter ads for Mango, Hutton will appear in the campaign for Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen's line, Elizabeth and James. "She's older and she's beautiful, and that is sexy to us," Contactmusic.com quotes Ashley as saying. Hutton also modeled with Mary-Kate in an editorial spread in Harper's Bazaar earlier this year.

KENYA HUNT/FOR METRO CANADA

Stay in with sleepwear and slippers

Stressed? Take a bath and relax with Soap & Glory's Calm One Calm All double-function formula bubbling bath soak and built-in lotion. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart for \$10.



tip: Before climbing into a bath, fill your bathroom sink with hot water. Then place your body lotion in the hot water. When you get out of your bath, your lotion will be nice and warm. — tipztime.com



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Style File

Kim Elbo



kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I'm looking to personalize a gift and would like to get it embroidered. Where can I go to get this done?

Some department stores and home decor stores such as Restoration Hardware offer monogram embroidery for a small price, but they may have a limited selection of styles and fonts. If the store you bought your gift does not offer the service you're looking for, head to an embroiderer or tailor.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@gmail.com.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.



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Designer: La Senza
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lasenza.com

See-through Aqua
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Shop: La Vie en Rose
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Sweet Stripes
Designer: Spreegirl
Shop: BeautyMark
beautymark.ca



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Shop: La Vie en Rose
Address: Various locations
lavieenrose.com



Knit Shoe
Designer: American Eagle
Shop: American Eagle
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ae.com



Slip-on
Designer: Bonjour Fleurette
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finefindsboutique.com

Sleepwear

Leave the fireplace on and stay comfy and cozy in bed with these three camisole sets. Like to keep things hot in bed? Search for fabrics like cashmere, wool or cotton to stay warm all night. Finer fabrics like silks will keep you cooler in bed if you like it a little chilly. Remember when you're getting out of bed, you might want to cover up quickly so look out for a dressing gown or a house coat the next time you're out shopping for sleepwear.

Slippers

We all know how chilly our feet can get during the winter months, and when you're at home it's even worse with hardwood or tiled flooring, so keep warm with slippers. Pamper your peds with a pair complete with sole padding and thick knits to surround your feet in comfortable socks. Or go for slip-ons for easy access like the Bonjour Fleurette slipper. Look for rubber soles — if you're prone to slipping — and washable versions to get more use out of them..

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt



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psst... Fierce! Project Runway Season Four winner, Christian Siriano will design his first-ever footwear and handbag collection; available exclusively at select Payless stores across Canada in Fall '09.

Project Runway Canada to return

The 2008 Gemini Award Winning reality TV series Project Runway Canada returns for an all-new season on Global Television, with encore performances on SLICETM, on Jan. 27. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Entertainment



The greatest

Brad Pitt's enigmatic Fight Club antihero Tyler Durden has been crowned the Greatest Movie Character of All Time by Empire magazine.

IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Britney morphs into Madonna on Circus

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

Britney Spears

Album: Circus

Label: Jive/Sony

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

THE WORLD IS certainly a very freaky place. First Michael Jackson morphed physically into Diana Ross. Now, Britney Spears is morphing musically into Madonna. Maybe there was some kind of tongue-to-tongue gene transference in that liplock Madonna threw on Britney a couple of years back. With the aid a phalanx of producers armed with the latest computer gadgetry to bolster her otherwise limp voice, Britney has managed to put together a decent pop/dance album. It's not as good as last year's surprising Blackout released when Brits was still loony as two sackfuls of cats. But no one cared to listen back then, so this will probably be praised as Britne's greatest ever ... further contributing to the bizarre reconstruction of this troubled pop star into the heiress of the Material Girl's legacy. Ugh. She's even dressing like her.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Akon

Album: Freedom

Label: SRC/Universal

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

JUST WHEN FANS have come to expect hit-making hip-hop from Atlanta-based rapper Akon, the controversial musician has gone euro-pop. That's right — on his third record Akon employs a bevy of synths, disco beats and an auto-tuned, pitch perfect voice that does far more singing than rhyming. It's not a bad move for the R&B star — the tunes are catchy, relaxed and, most importantly, different than what he's done before. Some of the lyrics, which are mostly about love, are over the top, but it's still a solid effort for this now veteran performer.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Neil Young

Album: Sugar Mountain, Live at Canterbury House 1968

Label: Reprise/Warner

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

THIS IS A HAPPIER, more innocent Neil Young than the slow-talking introvert we heard on the 1971 Massey Hall concert that was released last year as

part of his performance series. Here, he's laughing with the crowd, exchanging jokes, riffing on Classical Gas and telling wild stories about getting fired from a Coles book store for eating little red diet pills. Recorded in gleaming two-track stereo (voice on left, guitar on right), the 14 songs are drawn mainly from his underappreciated self-titled debut — the concert was recorded at an Ann Arbor coffee house the week of its release.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Los Campesinos!

Album: We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed

Label: Arts & Crafts

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

AS IF THE HYPER shout-fests and messy pop squeals that marked last April's Hold On Now, Youngster ... weren't enough. Some eight months later — you read that correctly! — a follow-up arrives that stabilizes said hyperactivity but maintaining a no-less-frenetic pace. Cramming every nook and cranny with a better organized mix of violins, guitars and glockenspiel, Gareth, Aleksandra et al barrel through 10 diary-like entries of an energetic youthful existence filled

with equal parts lyrical romanticism and sarcasm.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Rivers Cuomo

Album: Alone II

Label: ADGC/Universal

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

LAST YEAR RIVERS CUOMO, the conflicted Weezer frontman, gave fans a treat — a collection of unreleased demos. Well, now he's giving us more. The second installment in his Alone series offers up another batch of loose, somewhat lo-fi tracks that actually rival any of his band's more recent albums. Unlike some demo discs, this doesn't show Cuomo experimenting — it's got all the fuzzy downstrokes and layered harmony that's made him popular.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

The Bronx

Album: The Bronx III

Label: White Drugs/Distort

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

ALTHOUGH THE THIRD self-titled outing often veers towards the hard-rock bite of a melodic Motörhead, there's still some Black Flag-like brute force

that lingers throughout. After 34 minutes, you'll either feel cathartic or re-

sist all urges to shout back ever again.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

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Kitchen - The kitchen is one room that can take a lot of colour, so take a cue from the Europeans and paint your walls. Update the sink with an elegant goose-neck faucet, or buy new breakfast stools or a rolling butcher block. Stash appliances in cupboards and leave out one statement piece: a vintage breadbox, an old-fashioned scale or a trio of quirky tins.

Living Room - New window treatments can be more economical than you think. Look into ready-made panels that can be customized by ironing on a grosgrain border with fusible tape in an accent colour. If you are handy with a sewing machine, buy yardage at inexpensive discount fabric stores and make them yourself.

(continued online...)



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Filmmaker Roman Polanski has filed a request asking a judge in Los Angeles to dismiss child-molestation charges against him, 30 years after he fled the U.S. to escape prosecution. **IMDB.COM**

Rachel among top Spirit picks

Border-smuggling crime movie Frozen River won best picture and breakthrough-acting awards at the Gotham Independent Film ceremony Tuesday, as well as sharing top billing in nominations for the Spirit Awards for independent filmmakers.

Melissa Leo, 48, was named by IFP, organizer of the Gotham awards, as breakthrough actor of the year for her role in Frozen River. She portrays a des-

perate single mother who is drawn into the world of immigrant smuggling near a Mohawk reservation between New York state and Quebec.

Leo's performance has riveted movie critics, and the Gotham award and Spirit nomination put her in line for wider recognition as Hollywood's three-month movie awards season kicks into gear.

Earlier on Tuesday, Frozen River received six

Awards season

• The Hollywood awards season moves into full gear this month with nominations for the Golden Globes and the

Spirit Award independent-movie nominations, along with family drama Rachel Getting Married starring Anne Hathaway, and small-town drama Ballast.

The Spirit Awards, one of the best-known honours for

Screen Actors Guild awards, which are handed out in January ahead of the industry's top honors, the Oscars, Feb. 22.

independent movies, are handed out Feb. 21 on the eve of the annual Oscar ceremony.

Spirit Award organizers Tuesday announced that this year's prestigious Robert Altman Award, giv-

en to the best director, casting director and ensemble cast, was won by Synecdoche, New York.

The movie also shared the best ensemble award from Gotham along with Woody Allen's Vicky Cristina Barcelona. The Gotham Awards were handed out in New York on Tuesday.

Synecdoche, New York, a quirky tale of a despairing theatre director played by Philip Seymour Hoffman, was written and directed

by Charlie Kaufman and picked up another three Spirit nominations, including best screenplay, in the main categories.

Other leading contenders for the Spirit Awards included the San Francisco-set biopic Milk, starring Sean Penn as gay rights pioneer Harvey Milk, with four nominations. The Wrestler, starring Mickey Rourke, and Vicky Cristina Barcelona each had three nominations. **REUTERS**



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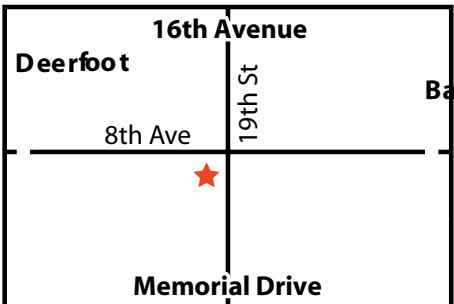
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Case's Cyclone to hit in March

MUSIC Neko Case will follow 2006's Fox Confessor Brings the Flood, the best-selling album of her career, with Middle Cyclone.

Due March 3 via Anti-, the collection boasts guest appearances from the Band's Garth Hudson, fellow Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah Harmer, M. Ward, members of Case's primary band, the New Pornographers, and musicians from Calexico, Los Lobos, Giant Sand, the Lilys and the Sadies.

The album's 12 original tunes are augmented by covers of Harry Nilsson's Don't Forget Me and Sparks' Never Turn Your Back on Mother Earth.

Fox Confessor Brings the Flood sold 194,000 copies in the United States.



Neko Case's Middle Cyclone collection boasts many guest appearances.

Fox Confessor Brings the Flood brought Case to a new level of commercial visibility, having sold

194,000 copies in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

REUTERS

Bonnaroo sets dates for 2009

CONCERT The eighth Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival takes place June 11 to 14, 2009, in Manchester, Tenn., an hour southeast of

Nashville. The first round of ticket presales begins today. A lineup announcement is expected early next year. The initial batch

of tickets will be available for the first time as part of a payment plan encompassing five installments of \$50 US. **REUTERS**

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Prison recalls Winehouse's husband

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse's husband Blake Fielder-Civil is being sent back to prison, just one month after he was released into rehab, People.com reports



his lawyer as saying. "I can confirm he has been recalled," says Fielder-Civil's lawyer Kate Anderson, declining to state the reason. (A source close to Fielder-Civil tells People that he failed a drug test.) The 26-year-old, who was sentenced to 27 months on charges of assault and attempting to pervert the course of justice, had been in rehab as part of his early release from jail. Anderson tells People that "the position on recall is that you then serve the remainder of the sentence" — meaning Fielder-Civil would remain in jail until 2010.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Here come the fillers
NBC shows getting bulked up to cover airtime

IntelleVision



NOW I KNOW THE NETWORKS ARE IN TROUBLE: Casablanca, a much-loved film classic, is 102 minutes long. The Wizard Of Oz is 101 minutes, and Citizen Kane is 105 minutes, but when Celebrity Apprentice returns to NBC early next year, it will be two hours long, with commercials. I'm not sure what that all means, but I think it bears thinking about. "Donald has always felt the boardrooms were too short, and I think he's right," Mark Burnett, the show's executive producer, told TV Week magazine. "Right now, there's really only about nine minutes of footage that we use and the boardroom (scenes) go

on for hours sometimes. The problem has been trying to squeeze it all in. Every season we go through the struggle of cutting the show down." A shortfall in programming was one of the outcomes feared when the writers' strike ground on to a third month, and it seems to have played out on cue, especially at NBC, the most erratic and afflicted of the four networks, especially under the up-is-down-black-is-white reign of Ben Silverman. Celebrity Apprentice isn't the only show that's getting bulked up to fill airtime — The Biggest Loser: Couples will be expanding to fit a two-hour slot on Tuesdays, and Howie Do It, the new Howie Mandel comedy vehicle co-produced by NBC and Canwest, will be hour-long on Fridays. According to TV Week, NBC will feature at least five hours of unscripted programming in primetime

"A shortfall in programming was one of the outcomes feared when the writer's strike ground on to a third month, and it seems to have played out on cue, especially at NBC."

every week this winter. And if that doesn't work out, there are live executions and all those hours of Japanese game shows where people take pot shots at each other over shark tanks and open sewers. **COOKED UP:** First Gordon Ramsay's career goes into power dive when he's hit with allegations of cheating on his wife and betraying the family man image he's cultivated over the years, and now Nigella

Lawson is accused of riding a fake bus and cooking in a fake home. The U.K. Daily Mail tabloid accused Lawson of deceiving her viewers by staging a scene of her riding a London bus with extras, and of shooting the cooking scenes supposedly set at her home in a studio. Lawson fired back at the "dingbats" at the Mail in a Guardian article, saying that viewers know what they're watching. "When I say on TV, 'This cake takes 20 minutes to bake' and then one minute later it's ready, what do they think I have done? Do they think I have some kind of Time Lord qualities?" If this looks at all ridiculous, let's just remember we're talking about British food programs, the mere existence of which is an improbability defying all known laws of nature.

Campbell joins Philanthropist

SERIES Canadian actress Neve Campbell is returning to series television with a co-starring role on NBC's midseason drama The Philanthropist. The Philanthropist centres on Teddy Rist (James Purefoy), a renegade billionaire who uses his wealth, connections and power to help people in need around the world. Party of Five alumna Campbell will play the wife of his business partner and life-long friend, Phillip (Jesse Martin).

Chicken Soup ordered for TV

DEAL Dick Clark Prods. has inked a deal with Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing to develop an unscripted TV series based on the best-selling books to be co-hosted by book series co-creator Jack Canfield. The Chicken Soup franchise has sold more than 112 million copies.

REUTERS

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](#)

CA	Vu SC			7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/4/08	267	351	- ACCESS	Help TV		Santa Baby (2006, Comedy) Jenny McCarthy, Ivan Sergei.			Eleventh Hour "Titans"		Help TV	
	243	317	3 CFCN	etalk	Hollywood	ER "Let it Snow" (N)			CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)	
	-	-	4 BROAD	(4) Broadcast News News.			Broadcast News News.					
	-	371	5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		Fascinating
	245	306	6 CBRT	NHL Hockey		CBC News	Wheel-Fortune	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338	7 CICT	ET Canada		Entertainment		Survivor: Gabon (N)		The Office (N)	Billable Hours	News Hour
	246	-	8 CKET	Law & Order: SVU		Friends	Friends	Ugly Betty (N)		30 Rock	30 Rock	Your City
	119	705	9 CBXFT	Virginie (SC)	Houde	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)		Grosse vie (N)	C.A. (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		TJ Alberta
	-	-	10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372	12 KREM	News (N)	Hollywood	The Doctors (N)		Survivor: Gabon (HDTV)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Eleventh Hour
primetime	-	374	14 KSPS	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Panda Tales		Happy Holidays: Andy Williams		John Denver: A Song		
	502	390	15 CBC	CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		Nature-Things
	-	370	16 KHQ	News	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel-Fortune	Name Is Earl		Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock
	-	373	22 KAYU	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		News (N)
	297	652	37 WPIX	Supernatural (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends	Sex and-City		Will & Grace
	500	500	29 CNN	CNN Presents "Scream Bloody Murder" Genocide. (N)			Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Presents "Scream Bloody Murder"			
	508	502	31 CNN2	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Nancy Grace
	400	400	21 TSN	(6) NFL Football Oakland Raiders at San Diego Chargers.			SportsCentre		2007 Poker Million			
	408	418	27 net	Saturday Night Poker		The Ultimate Fighter		Hockey Central	Flames Week	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Best-Sports
	410	403	30 SCORE	Cabby Unlimit	Poker Million Pound Challenge.	NBA Basketball		San Antonio Spurs at Denver Nuggets. (Live)		Score on NFL		
news	411	457	44 OLN	Survivorman		Pilot Guides Specials		Pilot Guides		Don't Forget Your Passport		Commando
	417	406	48 SPEED	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out
	552	543	20 YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	557	541	39 FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That s-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	555	545	67 TOON	6teen	Total Drama	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	
	575	583	11 CMT	(6) The 42nd Annual CMA Awards			Gone Country	Gone Country	The 42nd Annual CMA Awards			
	553	546	17 TREE	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears	Babar	Backyardigans	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!
	-	-	18 CHTV	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Road to Christmas (2006, Comedy) Jennifer Grey.			News (N)	
	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	House	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design
family	521	560	24 TLC	American Chopper		LA Ink "Kat Tales" (N)		American Chopper		LA Ink "Kat Tales"		Amer. Chopper
	603	561	25 FOOD	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Jamie's Kitchen Australia (N)		Restaurant Makeover		Challenge		Unwrapped
	615	520	26 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360 (HDTV)		The First 48		The First 48
	617	522	32 SHOW	EastEnders	Spaced	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis "Haze"		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	NUMB3RS
	601	562	33 SLICE	X-Weighted		The Biggest Loser		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted		Biggest Loser
	-	633	34 ENC2	The Way We Were *** (1973, Romance) Barbra Streisand.			Absence of Malice *** (1981, Drama) Paul Newman.			Sea of Love		
	520	505	35 DISC	(6) The Body Machine		MythBusters		Daily Planet		Monster Moves		Body Machine
	620	523	36 BRAVO	Cake (2005, Romance-Comedy) Heather Graham.			Law & Order "Entitled"		Without a Trace		Cake	
	294	650	40 WPCB	Romy and Michele's		Cheers	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Romy and Michele's High School Reunion		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas		The Simpsons	South Park	Colbert Cmas
cable variety	-	539	42 TCM	Gentlemn-Blnd (7:45) The Pink Panther *** (1964, Comedy)			(9:45) The Notorious Landlady *** (1962, Suspense)					
	628	584	43 SPIKE	TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Married... With
	522	516	45 HIST	Finding the Fallen		NCIS "Kill Art"		Lost Worlds		Finding the Fallen		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	Battlestar Galactica		Chuck (HDTV)		Stargate SG-1		Lost		Deep Space 9
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) The Right Stuff *** (1983, Docudrama) Sam Shepard, Scott Glenn, Ed Harris. Premiere.							JFK *** (1991, Drama)	
	619	525	49 TROP	Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	600	564	50 HGTV	The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos (N)	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Market Call		Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Business News	Squeeze Play
	526	507	92 VIVA	The West Wing		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.	Encounters	Judging Amy		Commander
cable variety	269	350	93 APTN	Suaangan	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	renegadepress	Johnny Mnemonic * (1995, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves.		Fish Out		
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Vancouver	Kirdaar	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Desi-Mama
	571	581	100 MMM	VideoFlow		Revival	Gene Simmons	Party of Five		MuchMoreMusicOnStage		VideoFlow
	570	580	101 MM	Dance	Dance	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	MuchVibe
	581	566	102 MTV	The Hills	Super Sweet	True Life		MTV Live	After	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		True Life

critics'corner

30 Rock It's been statistically proven that a successful high-school reunion happens once every 50 years. Yet Jack (Alec Baldwin) convinces Liz (Tina Fey) that she should go to her reunion against her better judgment. Meanwhile, Don Geiss (guest star Rip Torn) wakes up from his coma and shocks Jack with a declaration about who will be the company's CEO. Shaken, Jack tries to get away to blow off steam, but bad weather forces him to attend Liz's reunion instead. 10:30 PM on CKAL 10:31 PM on KHQ



Cake Heather Graham stars in this 2005 romantic comedy as a perpetually single travel writer who takes over the operation of her ill father's bridal magazine. To help her learn the ropes, her dad assigns her a mentor (David Sutcliffe) — who happens to be the same guy she drunkenly hit on at a friend's wedding. Taye Diggs and Sandra Oh also star. 7 PM on BRAVO

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Actor Dylan McDermott will soon be a single man once again. On Tuesday, a Los Angeles superior court judge ruled that the divorce between McDermott and his wife, Shiva Rose, will be finalized on Jan. 2. THECELEBRITYCAFE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Kevin a happy dad

PARENTING Kevin Federline has been called many things in the nearly five years since Britney Spears walked into his life: Gold-digger, wannabe rapper, partier. These days he answers to one name: Daddy. People.com reports.

Since splitting with Spears in 2006, the former back-up dancer, 30, has channelled all of his energy into their sons Preston, 3, and Jayden, 2.

"My first question to (my lawyer) was, 'Am I ever going to be able to see my children?'"



Federline said, regarding working out a custody arrangement with Spears.

She was the one who called it quits on their marriage, he added.

"It's hard enough to be in a marriage, and then have a kid, then kids — it changes everything," Federline said. "For me, I'd become more concerned with my children. Not that I ignored Britney, but my kids are always most important ... I mean, we were having complications. I didn't give her an ultimatum, but I was trying to work stuff out with her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spears gets proposals

PROPOSALS Britney Spears has received two marriage proposals, female-first.co.uk reports.

The singer, who has wed twice before, is said to have been propositioned by her paparazzo ex-boyfriend Adnan Ghalib, who she met up with in September.

"Adnan has been bombarding Britney with texts telling her he loves her ... He has even asked her to marry him," a source said. "Britney was taken aback. She and Adnan have amazing chemistry. But she knows he is bad news, and now friends and family are worried she will give him a second chance."

However, Spears has also reportedly re-

ceived a proposal from hair salon manager Salvatore D'Angelo, whom she was introduced to last month.

"Salvatore just came out with it and popped the question two weeks ago ...

Britney was thrilled but told him she has to concentrate on work and being a good mother to her two sons. However, she said if he still feels the same way at the end of next year, she will consider marrying him."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Watts to pose in buff for art

ART Actress Naomi Watts is to strip for a nude painting by a top Australian artist, imdb.com reports.

Watts has reportedly agreed to pose for David Bromley, who is famed for his naked portraits of famous

women, as part of his submission for Australia's prestigious Archibald Prize next year.

Bromley, who has also painted Kylie Minogue, is delighted the star has agreed to the project.

"My people are talking to her people," he says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Coleman pleads no contest in court

LEGAL Actor Gary Coleman has pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct after attacking a photographer outside a Utah bowling alley, imdb.com reports.

The former Diff'rent Strokes star was in court on Tuesday to face charges stemming from the incident, which took place earlier this year. He was fined.

Coleman and his wife reportedly hit Colt Rushton with their vehicle in a Payson parking lot after he refused to stop taking cellphone snapshots of the couple.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Miller's rep blasts British press

RUMOUR Sienna Miller's representative has blasted the British press for alleging the actress had split from oil heir Balthazar Getty last month, insisting recent quotes attributed to the star are "three years old," imdb.com reports.

The actress has been romantically linked to Getty since the summer when they were seen in Prague in the Czech Republic, on the set of Miller's new movie G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra.

Miller was rumoured to have broken off her romance with Getty. She was then alleged to have confirmed the split and was quoted as saying, "I'm single at the moment, and I'm completely happy with that."

Miller and Getty later appeared to have rekindled their love affair, after they were spotted together in London last week.

But Miller's spokesperson claims the couple never parted ways in the first place, and is adamant the quotes have been rehashed from an old interview, because the actress hasn't commented on her private life in recent weeks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



HELLO!

Hot shot of the week



CAITLIN CRONENBERG/HELLO! CANADA

Recently honoured in Rome with a retrospective of his work, filmmaker David Cronenberg reflects on a trip to the Italian capital exclusively in HELLO! Canada. "It was a very sweet experience," writes the Toronto-born Eastern Promises director, who brought his family, including his photographer daughter Caitlin (who took the picture, above, at the Colosseum).

HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands — read more at hellomagazine.ca

Olsen's rep denies pregnancy reports

RUMOUR Despite a recent National Enquirer report, Mary-Kate Olsen is not expecting her first child, us-magazine.com reports.

"Mary-Kate is absolutely not pregnant," her rep said. According to the paper, rumours the 22-year-old was pregnant started when her weight shot up to 102 pounds. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Chenoweth to pen memoirs

BOOK Actress/singer Kristin Chenoweth is the latest celebrity to write about her own life in a forthcoming memoir, imdb.com reports. The Pushing Daisies star will discuss being adopted, her rise to fame, and her role in the hit Broadway show Wicked. The book is scheduled to hit shelves in April.

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Friday
Partly cloudy
7 °C / -8 °C

Saturday
Partly cloudy
3 °C / -3 °C



Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television
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WEEKDAYS AT 6 AM

Take Five

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19			20	21			
			22						23			
24	25	26			27	28	29				30	31
32					33						34	
35			36	37					38			
		39						40	41			
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		5					1	9
	7	2		4	1			
3			8					
9		6	7		8			
	8						9	
			3		2	5		8
					9			1
			4	7		9	3	
2	4					6		

Crossword across

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Oologist's sub-
ject | Christmas movie | changeable |
| 5 Adipose tissue | 23 Dog's foot | 49 Lady's guy |
| 8 Roundish hair-
style | 24 Sword handle | 50 Sapporo sash |
| 12 Reynolds or
Lancaster | 27 In the wings | 52 Privy to |
| 13 Falsehood | 32 Under the
weather | 53 Carbon com-
pound |
| 14 Whip | 33 OPEC | 54 "— Miniver" |
| 15 Heehaw | commodity | 55 Have an incli-
nation |
| 16 Commercials | 34 Set up | 56 Force unit |
| 17 Den | 35 Italian | 57 "Humbug!" |
| 18 Rental flat,
perhaps | "slipper" bread | 58 Lambs' dams |
| 20 Play a piccolo | 38 Nevada city | |
| 22 Will Ferrell | 39 Yank | |
| | 40 Dead heat | |
| | 42 Piano style | |
| | 45 Erratically | |

Crossword down

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Recedes | 29 Halibut, for one |
| 2 Pundit | 30 Card player's call |
| 3 Snatch | 31 Swelled head |
| 4 Thin surgical implement | 36 Bale |
| 5 Beat cop (Sl.) | 37 Time of your life? |
| 6 Succor | 38 Speak from memory |
| 7 Criterion | 41 Afternoon hour on a sun-
dial |
| 8 Showing buoyancy | 42 Coaster |
| 9 Eating utensils | 43 Small horse |
| 10 Disturb | 44 "Who's buried in Grant's
—?" |
| 11 Shrek, e.g. | 46 Recognized |
| 19 Urban transport | 47 Unescorted |
| 21 Chances, for short | 48 Odds' mates |
| 24 Toper's interrupter | 51 Support system? |
| 25 "The Greatest" | |
| 26 Pressing need? | |
| 28 Suitable | |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

W	A	G	S		A	L	L		A	V	E	R
E	S	A	U		P	E	A		M	E	R	E
V	E	R	B	A	T	I	M		A	R	I	A
E	A	R	T	H				P	R	I	M	E
				L	A	V	A		U	N	O	
F	I	V	E		E	E	L	S		U	K	E
O	R	E		D	I	G	I	T		T	E	A
P	E	R		A	L	I	S		C	H	A	R
		O	H	M		S	A	R	I			
M	A	N	A	N	A			U	N	I	T	E
O	T	I	C		V	E	R	T	E	B	R	A
M	O	C	K		Q	W	E		M	E	E	T
S	P	A	S		W	E	D		A	X	E	S

9	7	8	2	4	5	3	1	6
4	3	2	7	1	6	5	9	8
1	5	6	8	9	3	2	7	4
2	6	1	3	8	4	9	5	7
5	9	4	6	7	2	8	3	1
3	8	7	1	5	9	4	6	2
8	1	3	5	2	7	6	4	9
7	4	5	9	6	8	1	2	3
6	2	9	4	3	1	7	8	5

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	21-25 min	Not bad
13-17 min	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Steak Skewered with Two Onions

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 lb (680 g) sirloin or rump steak, trimmed of all fat
- 2 medium red onions
- 8 fat scallions
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) red wine vinegar
- Salt and black pepper
- 4 tbsp (60 mL) light olive oil

METHOD:

- Preheat grill to high. Cut meat into 20 equal cubes. Peel, top and tail red onions, cut in half widthwise and cut each half into four wedges. Rinse scallions, trim to lengths of 4 in. (10 cm) and cut in half lengthwise.
- Onto each of four metal skewers, about 16 in. (40 cm) long, thread five pieces of meat, alternating with a

- combination of red and green onions.
- 3. Lay the skewers across grill pan or roasting pan, balancing ends on the rim.
- 4. Mix mustard, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar, salt, and pepper in a small bowl, then whisk in oil.
- 5. Brush half the mixture over kabobs, then grill, close to the heat source, for 3–5 minutes. Turn skewers, brush with remaining mixture and grill for a further 3–5 minutes.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20

A bitter person's aloofness makes you smile. Nothing can get you down for long. Tell everyone about better ways to succeed.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21

A person's reaction will be over the top. It's up to you to give a reality check. Anything can happen if you respond happily to a request.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21

Now is the time to yield to a sense of enchantment. You'll move easily into an alliance. Be fair to a shy person.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22

Don't set aside a commitment. The signs of the future are all around. You'll gain the sympathy of a friend.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23

A former party-girl is longing for pure devotion. Don't try to catch up in a silly debate. A transit delay can reduce the number of your boring tasks.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22

An illness has unforeseen consequences. A beginner's loyalty is tested. Compose yourself and think again about a decision.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23

A misunderstanding brings about a fortunate friendship. A loss of nerve comes out in the open. An angry man is passionately awaited.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22

Business confusion is blamed for misbehaviour. Nobody knows that your feelings are deep. A lucky person doesn't let a chance go by.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21

An obsession interferes in a new relationship. Deliberate flippancy won't be highly regarded. A fantasy won't give you any security.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20

A sensible man gives wonderful gifts. It's time to see a doctor. Having different options will please you.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18

Your energy level rises as time goes by. An unexpected gift comes in the nick of time. Someone will be forced to leave.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20

The reason for a bit of gossip will stun you. Resist being stuck in a dreary rut. An outgoing friend has broken a meaningless bond.

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